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# •THE •AMERICAN• SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW



**The Vinland Voyages  
Leif Ericson Conquering America  
Paris Fashions in Medieval Greenland  
The Sailing Craft of the Vikings**



Gerhard Munthe

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## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS NUMBER OF THE REVIEW

LAURENCE MARCELLUS LARSON is a native of Norway, but came to the United States early enough to have received his education here. He has been always identified with the Middle West. He took his degree at Wisconsin University and taught in the same state until 1907, when he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois, where he is now professor of history. A distinguished scholar and a ready writer, Professor Larson has published extensively. Among his books are a translation of *The King's Mirror* with an Introduction, which was published in the series of SCANDINAVIAN MONOGRAPHS, and a history of *Canute the Great*.

HARRY SUNDBY-HANSEN was for many years on the staff of Chicago newspapers, and, in the capacity of reporter for one of the big dailies, saw the triumphant entry of the *Viking* to Chicago in 1893. He afterwards left the field of English newspapers to become city editor of the Norwegian daily *Skandinaven*. During the war he was called into service with the Federal Committee of Public Information with headquarters in New York. When this activity was continued, after the war, under private auspices as the Foreign Language Information Service, Mr. Sundby-Hansen remained as editor and manager of the Norwegian bureau, which he has developed to a high degree

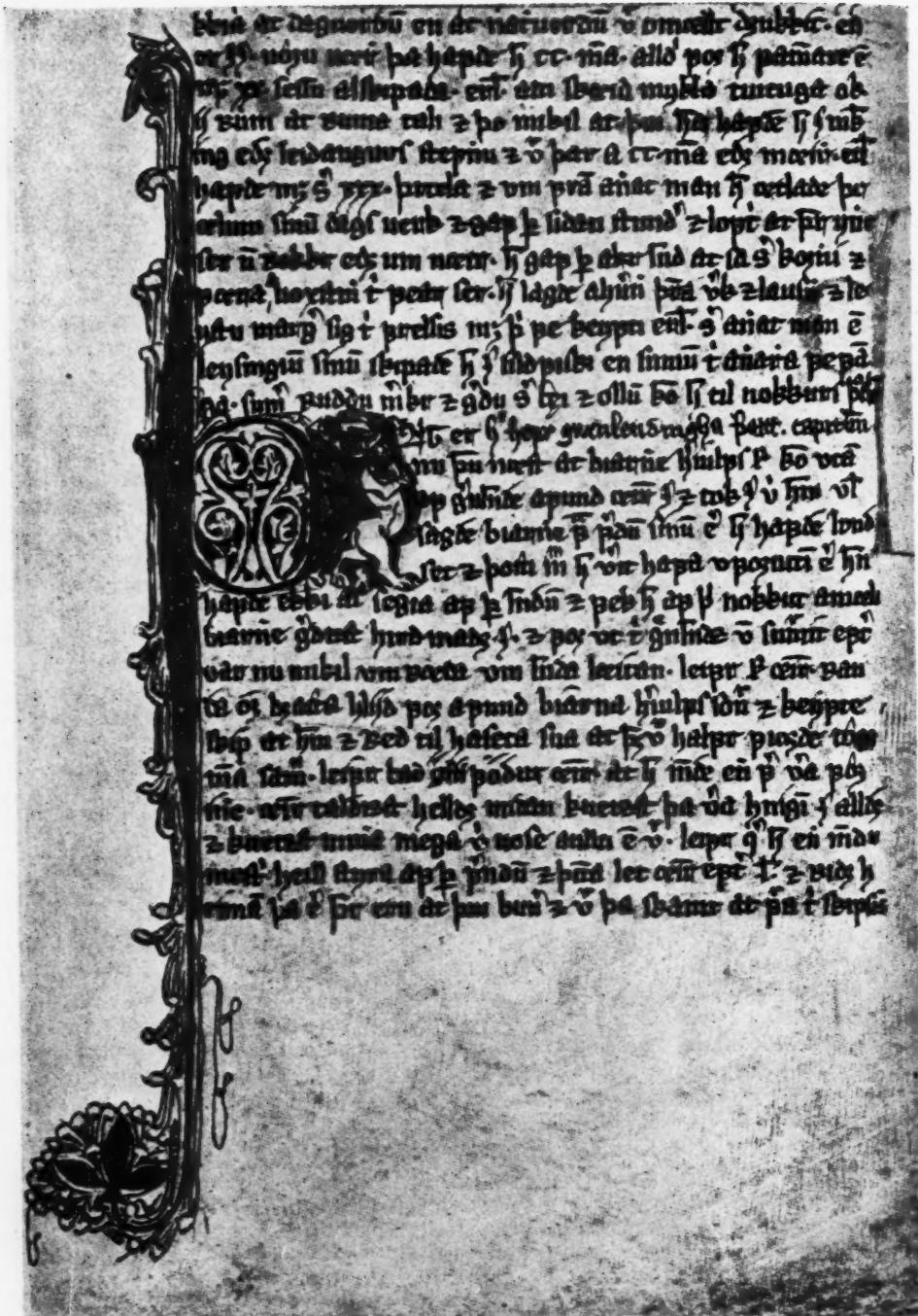
of efficiency and usefulness. He is also secretary of the New York Chapter of Associates of the American-Scandinavian Foundation and has been very active in promoting the cause of the Leif Ericson movement sponsored by the Chapter.

POUL NÖRLUND is Deputy Keeper of the National Museum at Copenhagen. He is the author of numerous historical and archeological essays spanning over a wide field. His doctor's degree was obtained with a dissertation on the slave community of the ancient Romans, and he is joint editor of the Greek and Latin Illuminated Manuscripts in the Danish Collection. As leader of an archeological expedition to Greenland in 1921 he obtained the material for his entertaining article in this number.

E. E. EKSTRAND



Consul-General for Sweden in Chicago and as Councillor of the Swedish Legation in Washington gained the intimate and sympathetic insight into American views and conditions which make him especially fitted for his post as an ambassador of good will in the Foundation's co-operating society in Sweden. During the time of greatest need in Russia he sacrificed his personal interests to take charge of the relief expedition at Samara.



A PAGE FROM THE FLAT-ISLE BOOK

# THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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## The Vinland Voyages

By LAURENCE MARCELLUS LARSON

### I

**I**N THE YEAR 999, if Snorre reports correctly, there came to the harbor of Nidaros a ship from the distant settlements in Greenland. Nidaros (the modern Trondhjem) was the residence of the Norwegian king, Olaf Trygvesson, and the Greenlanders, who were evidently traders, no doubt thought it wise to seek an early opportunity to pay their respects to the strenuous monarch. Since communication with Greenland was uncertain and hazardous, we may be allowed to infer that the arrival of the little trading vessel created some interest at the royal court, an interest that certainly extended to the king himself, who had travelled widely and knew the meaning of a long journey to distant lands.

The master of the ship was Leif, the son of Eric the Red, a Norwegian "buccaneer" with a violent temper, who after a somewhat troubled career in Norway and Iceland, found a place in history as explorer and colonizer on the west coast of Greenland. Of Leif Ericson's career very little is known. By birth he was an Icelander, for Eric seems to have married his wife Theodhild after he had settled in Iceland. He must have been born not later than 975, though on this point we are left to conjecture. In 984 or 986 (the annals seem to favor the later date) Eric removed his belongings to Greenland. Leif thus became one of the builders of the colony, residing with his family at *Brattahlid* on the shores of the *Ericsfjord*.

Eric the Red had four children, two of whom—the son Thorvald and the daughter Freydis—are regarded as of illegitimate birth. Of Theodhild's two sons, Thorstein and Leif, the former seems to have been the older. But Thorstein died while still a young man, and Leif succeeded to the rights of the first-born. On the death of Eric (which

occurred early in the eleventh century) Leif became the master of the family estate and the chief of the commonwealth. In the earlier sources he is described merely as a "promising" man. Later accounts have expanded this characterization somewhat. In the *Tale of the Greenlanders* we read that "Leif was a big man and strong, the most noble of men to see, a wise man, and a man of gentle behavior in all ways." The description is satisfactory, but it was written three centuries after Leif's death.

It was customary in the tenth century to make the voyage between Norway and Greenland by way of Iceland: but Leif decided to ignore the sailing directions and to steer directly across the Atlantic to the Norwegian coast. So far as we know, this was the first time that the Atlantic was crossed in a single voyage. Leif did not quite succeed in his plan, for his ship was driven southward to the Hebrides; but the ocean had been crossed, and Leif had proved himself a daring and resourceful seaman.

When Leif came to Nidaros he was still a devotee of Norse heathendom; but he was soon persuaded to receive baptism. He remained through the winter at the royal court, doubtless on the king's invitation. But King Olaf's friendship may not have been wholly disinterested, for one day he approached him with the suggestion that he undertake the task of converting the Greenlanders to the Christian faith. Leif accepted the commission with some reluctance, for he "thought that this errand would be hard to carry through in Greenland." The king found "a priest and other learned men" who were willing to brave the terrors of the voyage, and in the spring or early summer of the following year, Leif Ericson set sail for the west.

It seems likely that the voyagers encountered unfavorable winds, for the ship was driven far out of its intended course. When Leif saw land, he was hundreds of miles south of the Greenland settlements. He must have been somewhere to the south of Newfoundland, for he was in a region where grapes grew wild in great abundance. The time of the land-fall is nowhere indicated in the sources, but we may assume that it was late in the summer, for the grapes were apparently ripe.

The sources note particularly that somewhere on this journey, evidently on the return from Vinland to Greenland, Leif rescued a crew of ship-wrecked men and brought them with him to Greenland. On his return to Brattahlid he promptly took up the task with which he had been charged and apparently met with early success. There were those who refused to surrender their old superstitions (Eric among them), but from the year 1000 Greenland was evidently counted a Christian land.

Of Leif's own family almost nothing is known. Brattahlid and the chieftainship passed after Leif's death to his son Thorkell. The

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*Thormods-saga* tells us that Thorkell was a friend of St. Olaf; if that be correct Leif must have died sometime before the year 1030; Bugge places the event in 1021.

Eighteen or twenty years after Leif's journey to Nidaros we get a last momentary glimpse of the great Greenlander. When St. Olaf wished to dispose (decently but effectively) of the blind King Rörek, he decided to send him to Leif Ericson in Greenland. Rörek was finally landed in Iceland; but the king's decision shows that Leif was still a lord among his people and a trusted friend of the Norwegian king.

## II

The Greenland settlements were small and feeble, counting in their most populous days scarcely more than two thousand inhabitants. In the days of Eric and Leif the number must have been very much smaller. One can therefore be sure that the story of the exploits of Leif Ericson, the first man in the colony, were soon known to every one, and that the Vinland tradition took form quite early. In those days travellers and traders dealt in tales as well as merchandise, and it cannot have been long before the Vinland tradition was current throughout the North. The first mention of Vinland occurs in the writings of Adam of Bremen, a German ecclesiastic who wrote some time between 1060 and 1070. Adam tells of "an island discovered by many, which is called Vinland, for the reason that vines grow wild there, which yield the best of wine." Adam's authority was the Danish king, Sweyn Estridsson, at whose court he learned German and secured much information about the Northern lands. The king's authority is believed to have been an Icelandic poet, Thorkell the Fair, who spent some time at the Danish court about 1050.

Traces of the same tradition appear two generations later in the *Book of the Icelanders*, composed by Are the Wise about 1130. Are merely alludes to the land called Vinland the Good; but this is in itself an important fact, since it indicates that the existence of such a country was a matter of common knowledge. Are had his information from an uncle, Thorkell Gellisson, who had visited Greenland and had learned much that was interesting from an old Greenlander, one of the original settlers of that country. The allusion reappears in the somewhat later *Book of Settlements* which is also credited to Are.

The statement that Vinland was first discovered by Leif Ericson appears for the first time in two sources from the first half of the thirteenth century, Snorre's *Heimskringla* and the *Cristne-saga*. The statements relating to Leif are clearly derived from the same source and may have been drawn directly from the Vinland tradition; but scholars have thought it likely that the source is some work by Are the

Wise that has since been lost. Certain other allusions to Leif's discovery in other sagas of the same century are apparently traceable to the same source.

The tradition appears in a more highly developed form in the *Eric-saga* of the *Hawk's Book* and the *Tale of the Greenlanders* in the *Flat-isle Book*. These also contain the story of an attempt to colonize Vinland, an account which probably has no connection with the tradition as developed in Greenland but is derived from an Icelandic tradition, developed and maintained in the family of Karlsefni's son Snorre who was born in Vinland.

Entirely independent of both these traditions is a statement in the Icelandic Annals, *anno* 1121, that Bishop Eric Upse went in that year to seek Vinland. This was at the time of Are's literary activity and again testifies to the fact that the existence of Vinland was common knowledge in Iceland a century after the days of Leif.

But now comes Dr. Fridtjof Nansen with the bold assertion that, while the Northmen no doubt discovered the American continent, the evidence for such a discovery is worthless. The whole Vinland story is a myth.

In his great work on Arctic explorations (*Nord i Taakeheimen*, 1911) Nansen has a long chapter on the Vinland voyages in which he subjects the sources to a very searching examination, bringing out certain similarities to the current medieval descriptions of the so-called Fortunate Isles (or the Isle of the Blessed), located somewhere beyond Morocco, and to certain Irish tales of voyages to those isles. He quotes Isidore's statement that "of their own nature they are rich in valuable fruits" and that "the mountain ridges are clothed with self-grown vines and corn fields." When one compares this with Adam's information that Vinland, too, had wild grapes and unsown corn, one is for a moment disposed to agree that Nansen must be right.

However, as Finnur Jónsson has brought out so effectively (in the Norwegian *Historisk Tidsskrift*, 1912), the accounts in the Vinland narratives and the medieval descriptions of the Fortunate Isles are so utterly unlike in nearly all their details that the similarities fade into insignificance. In fact the important similarities are only two: the wild grapes and the wild grain. The Isles of the Blessed are wonderlands, so wonderful that the heathen, according to Isidore, mistakenly regard them as Paradise. But it is no Paradise that the sagas describe. It is a most remarkable fact that they describe the new land as it must have actually appeared. They show us a country with mountains, woods, and long beaches, pleasant in summer and not very cold in winter, inhabited by a people that were still in the civilization of the stone age, who dressed in skins and liked to buy weapons and cloth, preferably red cloth, as one should expect in a savage people. Compared with other medieval writings, for example the won-

ders of Ireland in the *King's Mirror*, the Vinland narratives are almost suspiciously matter of fact in descriptive details. The only real marvel is the uniped that shot Thorvald Ericsson.

The mention of the grape should not prove disturbing; the Greenlanders found the grape growing abundantly on certain parts of the American coast, and it was only natural that they should emphasize the fact. Gustav Storm (whose *Studier over Vinlandsreiserne* is still the most satisfactory discussion of the whole problem) finds that virtually all who visited and explored New England and southeastern Canada write with enthusiasm of the wild grape. A single instance may be cited. Jacques Cartier, in his second journey to Canada, found an abundance of grapes on the Island of Orleans (just outside Quebec) "and for that reason we called it the Isle of Bacchus."

Wine was a rare luxury in the North, so rare that it was difficult to get sufficient quantities to carry out the service of the mass. In 1237 the archbishop of Nidaros sent a letter to the pope stating that in some of the dioceses in his province there was a lack of wine, "for rarely or never is any wine to be obtained in those parts," and asking whether it might not be possible to substitute beer or some other drink. The request was, of course, refused. To the Greenlanders the sight of fruited vines must have seemed marvelous, and one need not wonder that the new country was named Vinland.

The problem of the self-sown grain is somewhat more difficult. One of two solutions appear possible. It may be that this detail is an addition to the traditional account showing the influence of the legend referred to above. One should be disposed in that case to lay the blame on Adam, who is the first to mention the grain fields of Vinland. But Adam very distinctly refers to his authority as if the statement was one that might be questioned. "Moreover, that grain unsown grows there abundantly is not a fabulous fancy, but, from the accounts of the Danes, we know to be a fact."

It seems therefore probable that the explorers actually found some sort of a grass growing in Vinland which they took to be wild grain. Again we must remember that the Greenlanders and even the Icelanders can have known very little about growing grain. Barley can be grown in Iceland but rarely with real success. No grain of any sort grows in Greenland. It is possible that Leif's men saw grainfields in Norway, in which case they would probably be barley fields. But if we are to discredit the Vinland stories because of the unsown grain, we shall have to do the same with other and later accounts which report the same thing. Cartier, for example, found wild grain in various parts of Canada: "fields of wild corn;" "wild corn resembling rye;" and "corn having heads like rye and grain like oats." Storm, from whose "Studies" these references have been culled, also

notes that William Alexander, who was interested in the colonization of Nova Scotia stated in 1624 that three kinds of wild grain grew in that country. Whether this wild grain was wild rice (which the Indians are said to have used for food), the writer is not in position to decide; there may have been several forms of vegetation in the New World which a traveller with little knowledge and a lively imagination might have mistaken for "unsown grain."

### III

If we follow the *Eric-saga*, which in its older form seems to date from 1200 or a little later, we shall have to conclude (with Storm and Jónsson) that Leif discovered Vinland in the year 1000; that his brother Thorstein made an unsuccessful attempt to reach the country the following year; and that Thorfinn Karlsefni made his attempt at colonization in the years 1003-1006. After that year the voyages seem to cease.

The *Flat-isle Book* (which is at least a century and a half younger than the *Eric-saga*) tells a different story. Here we are informed that Vinland was first seen by Bjarne Herjulfsson, who, however, did not land. Some years later it was visited by all of Eric's four children in successive voyages and finally by Thorfinn Karlsefni in an effort to plant a colony. As it seems impossible to reconcile the two narratives, one is forced to surrender the latter account in favor of the older *Eric-saga*, which has stood the test of criticism far better than the tale in the *Flat-isle Book*.

The Greenlanders gave names to a number of points along the new coasts including three large areas: Helluland, Markland, and Vinland. Helluland was the country that lay nearest Greenland and was notable for its flat rocks or cliffs. There seems to be general agreement that this land must be sought in Labrador, perhaps in the northern half. Storm agrees to this, though he thinks it possible that Helluland may have been the northern half of Newfoundland.

The explorers next came to Markland, a land of woods and forests. On the location of this area there is no general agreement. Fossum finds it in southern Labrador; Hovgaard thinks that Karlsefni's Markland may be a part of Labrador, while Leif's Markland was in Nova Scotia. Storm locates it in Newfoundland. All that can be said with confidence is that it was somewhere between the fifty-seventh parallel, the northern limit of forest growth, and the forty-seventh, where the land of the vine begins.

There is some indication that the Greenlanders did not wholly forget Markland. In the Icelandic Annals, *anno 1347*, we are told that a small ship came in that year from Greenland, which "had fared to Markland, but had been driven hither by storms." It is generally

agreed that this journey must have been made in search of wood. In Greenland, where trees rarely grow to a size more than a few inches in diameter, the need for wood was always great. Ordinarily wood for cabinet work had to be imported from Norway, though some drift-wood was usually available. But in southeastern Labrador timber was plentiful. As it seems safe to assume that the Greenlanders when in search of wood would scarcely pass beyond the nearest supply, one may conclude that Markland in the fourteenth century meant the wooded coast of southeastern Labrador.

South of Markland was Vinland. In the larger sense Vinland was that part of Canada lying south of the forty-seventh parallel with, perhaps, the adjacent parts of New England. But when we come to the specific question—where did Leif first see the new continent? or (if we accept the *Flat-isle Book*) where were Leif's Booths? there is no agreement. Fossum looks about in the St. Lawrence valley. Storm argues for Nova Scotia. Hovgaard brings Leif as far south as Cape Cod. Other students have suggested other points on the New England coast and even farther south. In our present state of information the question cannot be answered.

The question is frequently asked: why were not the Vinland voyages followed up with an adequate effort at colonization? The answer lies in the conditions of the time. A handful of Greenlanders could not cope with the hostile savages of the new land. Iceland apparently had no surplus population to send to a new country. Those in the northern kingdoms who loved adventure could find better opportunities nearer home; for the years of the Vinland voyages were also the years of the last viking attack on England, culminating in the conquest of that country by Sweyn Forkbeard and his son Cnut.

For the larger European world Leif's discovery could have little interest. It offered an opportunity to build homes in a new land; but in the later Middle Ages those who looked out beyond their own boundaries were usually interested in trade, in foreign products, in the promise of gold. Nearly five hundred years after Leif's discovery John Cabot rediscovered the same region and brought home the promise of an unlimited supply of codfish, a promise that interested European traders immensely. A few years earlier Columbus had brought home the promise of gold. And in a few years the banks of Newfoundland were crowded with fishing craft, while Spanish adventurers thronged the ports of the West Indies.

Is there any historic connection between the voyages to Vinland and the later expeditions to the American coast? Usually the answer is in the negative, but one cannot be sure. No doubt we shall some day know more about the antecedents of the great maritime ventures of the fifteenth century, but the entire story will never be told.



*By Courtesy of Nordisk Tidende*  
LEIF ERICSON STATUE IN BOSTON, BY ANNE WHITNEY

## Leif Ericson Conquering America

*By HARRY SUNDBY-HANSEN*

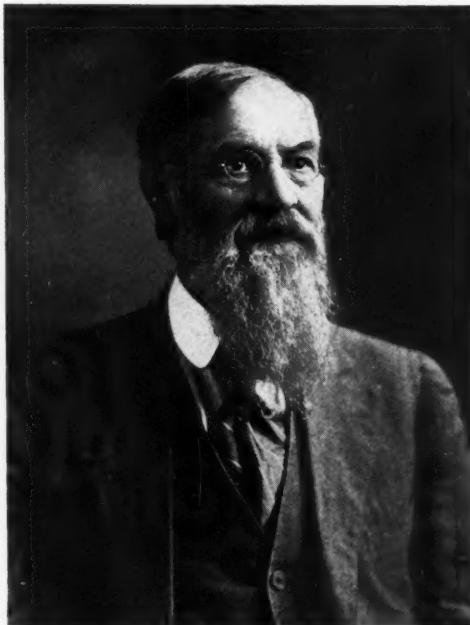
**A**NNUAL observance of the discovery of America by Leif Ericson is no new thing in this country. It spans a period of several decades. In spite of obvious discouragements it has persisted, and the movement for recognition of the intrepid Norseman who first of all Europeans set foot upon the North American continent has continued unabated until now it may be said to have acquired the halo of tradition.

It is but natural that the original sponsors of the Leif Ericson Day movement should be the descendants in this country of the people of Leif's own race, the Norwegians, scattered as they are by the hun-

dreds of thousands in communities all over this broad land. Being Nordics, Norwegians are closely related to all other Nordics, Swedes, Danes, Anglo-Saxons. Obviously the Leif Ericson Day movement affords primarily these groups of Americans a bond of mutual fellowship and sympathy. While first of all a Norwegian, Leif Ericson was in a larger sense a North European—one of their own kith and kin. A sense of racial pride taking in half the world should not be considered narrow. Especially as this pride finds its justification in achievement, not in the reputed and widely disputed "superiority" of the Nordic.

Up to the present time the movement to accord Leif Ericson recognition as the first European to discover North America has been furthered almost exclusively by groups of first and second generation Norwegians. Probably the first movement for the recognition of Leif Ericson, which eventually assumed concrete form in the erection of the Leif Ericson monument in Boston, goes back to the year 1873. In that year Professor R. B. Anderson of Madison, Wisconsin, made an interesting suggestion to Ole Bull. The celebrated Norwegian violinist was at that time sojourning in this country and was the idol of the American people. Professor Anderson, as will subsequently be seen, may without exaggeration be regarded as the father of the Leif Ericson Day movement. His

suggestion to Ole Bull was that Leif Ericson ought to be honored with a monument. Ole Bull accepted the suggestion with enthusiasm, and the two immediately began to prepare plans for its realization. A series of concerts and entertainments were held that year among the Norwegian pioneer settlers in Wisconsin and Iowa, the proceeds of which made the nucleus of the Leif Ericson Monument fund. Later in the same year Professor Anderson accompanied Ole Bull to Norway, where another series of concerts was held for the same purpose, and from these quite a sum of money was realized for the fund. At one of the entertainments in Norway Björnstjerne Björnson delivered an address in behalf of the cause. Returning to this country, Ole Bull



R. B. ANDERSON

made his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Here he succeeded in organizing a committee for carrying out the plans of Professor Anderson and himself in regard to raising a monument in honor of America's first discoverer.

That the idea had captured the imagination of Boston may be seen from the membership of the committee. It was made up of such distinguished Americans as James Russell Lowell, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas S. Appleton, Professor Eben Norton Horsford, the Governor of Massachusetts, the Mayor of Boston and many others equally distinguished. With the nucleus raised by Ole Bull and Professor Anderson the committee rapidly collected the remaining sum needed, and Miss Anne Whitney of Boston, at that time America's most distinguished sculptor, was engaged to produce a bronze statue of Leif Ericson in heroic size. The statue was placed at the end of Commonwealth Avenue where it remained until a few years ago when, owing to increased traffic and new street openings, it was moved to a better location. A perfect replica, cast in the same mold as the original, was presented by a Milwaukee woman to the city of Milwaukee, where it stands in Juneau Park overlooking Lake Michigan.

The work of Professor Eben Horsford of Harvard in making better known the Norse discovery of America should be gratefully remembered. He was the orator at the unveiling of the Boston Leif Ericson monument. The subject of the Norse discovery attracted him to such an extent that he abandoned his other studies and concentrated all his energies on investigations bearing on the voyages of the Norsemen to America. Some idea of his enthusiasm in this cause may be formed when we learn that he spent more than \$50,000 in making explorations, publishing books and maps, and building monuments in honor of the first European discoverer. At the junction of Stony Brook with the Charles River he bought a tract of land, the supposed site of Norumbega and landing place of Leif and his followers, and erected there a costly tower in commemoration of the Norse discoverer and first colonists.

The Leif Ericson movement was especially active in the late 'eighties and early 'nineties in Brooklyn, Chicago, La Crosse, and other centers of Norwegian population. About this time leaders of the group in Chicago began preparing plans for the erection of a Leif Ericson monument in that city. A committee was organized, funds were raised, and the well known Norwegian sculptor, Sigvald Asbjörnsen, was engaged to produce a monument. In due time the statue was completed and unveiled with appropriate ceremonies. Most of the Norwegian societies in Chicago turned out in a great parade with bands and banners and marched to Humboldt Park where the unveiling took place upon a site provided by the park commission.

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About the year 1890 Professor Anderson, who several years previously had published his epoch-making work, *America Not Discovered by Columbus*, publicly suggested that an annual Leif Ericson Day be observed. As a symbolical name of the day Mr. Anderson suggested "Grape Festival" in commemoration of the finding of wild grapes and the naming of the newly discovered country Vinland.

Acting on this suggestion, Norwegian societies in Brooklyn and in Sioux Falls immediately arranged Leif Ericson Day festivals with grapes and grapevines forming the decorative scheme. Mr. Anderson was the orator at each of these gatherings, which attracted many people. From that time on the movement was well under way. Other Nor-



Photograph by Underwood

LEIF ERICSON STATUE IN HUMBOLDT PARK,  
CHICAGO, BY SIGVALD ASBJÖRNSEN



LEIF ERICSON SHIP AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION IN SAN FRANCISCO, ON NORWAY'S DAY,  
JUNE 8, 1915

wegian societies took up the idea with great enthusiasm. Several societies incorporated in their by-laws a provision making it mandatory to observe a Leif Ericson Day each year. Among the oldest of these is the Norwegian American Seamen's Association of Brooklyn, significantly enough, in whose constitution, adopted about thirty years ago, is a provision calling for the annual observance by the association of Leif Ericson's discovery of America "in order fittingly to commemorate the heroic achievements of our forefathers." And who could be more fitting to commemorate the daring seamanship of the old Norsemen and their voyages across the Atlantic to America in open boats than the Norwegian sailors of to-day? The fraternal order of the Sons of Norway, which in the space of a few years has grown to be the largest secular organization of Norwegians in America, with a chain of brotherhood lodges stretching across the continent, has a similar provision in its by-laws. In former years the festivals sometimes took the form of street processions with floats representing viking ships fully manned. Leif Ericson was usually impersonated by the largest and tallest man the community could muster, and he looked formidable enough as he stood erect on the *löfting* in the stern of his ship repeatedly shading his eyes to catch the first faint outline of the American coast. "Leif" and his viking-costumed, weather-beaten "sea-rovers" always afforded even the grown-up spectators a thrill and were a source of endless delight and rapture to the youngsters, especially the small boys who thronged the line of march. Such demonstrations were confined almost exclusively to sections of the city having a large Norwegian contingent among the population.

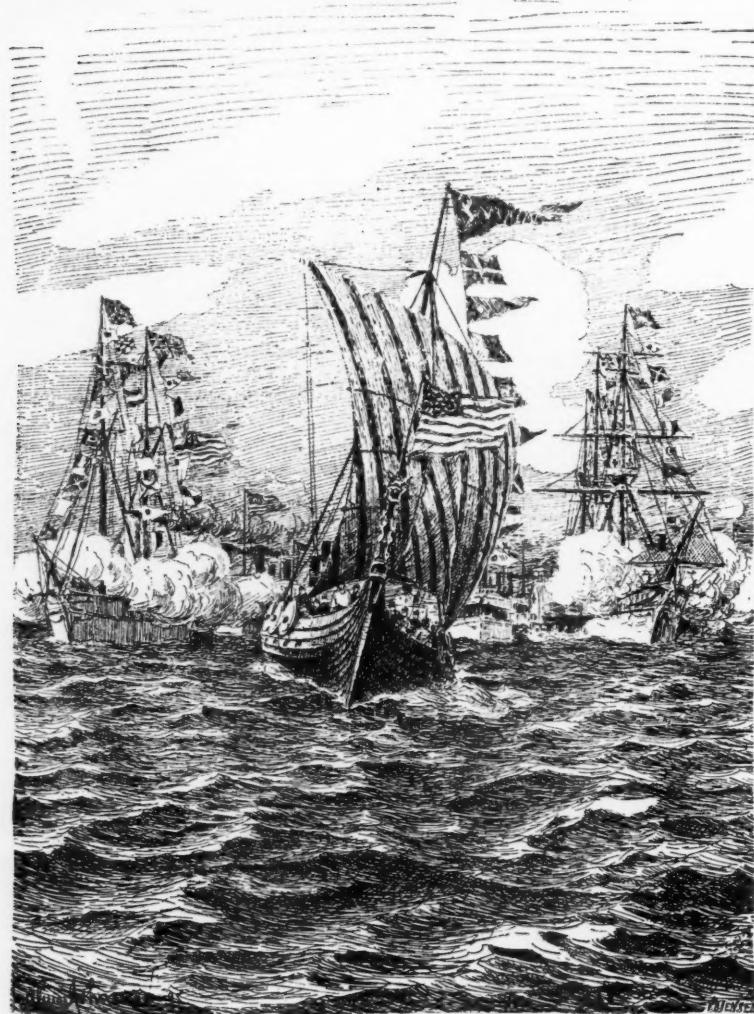
An event which gave the movement tremendous impetus was the arrival of the Norwegian viking ship in New London, Connecticut, June 13, 1893, after a successful voyage of forty-four days from Bergen. The thirtieth anniversary of this in modern times unique voyage was celebrated in Christiania with elaborate ceremonies on the anniversary of the landing in New London. For years prior to the arrival of this remarkable ship doubt had been raised regarding the early voyages of the Norsemen to America chiefly on the score of the assumed impossibility or great improbability of crossing the Atlantic in the "small, frail craft" used by the Norsemen in viking times. Seeing is believing. With the arrival of *Viking* the doubters were silenced. It was the year of the World's Fair in Chicago. *Viking* was designed to be an exhibit at the World's Fair, an exhibit of Norwegian shipbuilding skill, navigation, and seamanship, in addition to the proof it gave of the possibility of the Norse voyages to North America in the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. The World's Fair in Chicago was planned as a glorification of Columbus in the year of the 400th anniversary of his landing on an island in the West Indies. In fact no one to-day knows which island it was he landed on. It is



LEIF ERICSON DISCOVERING AMERICA, FROM A PAINTING BY CHRISTIAN KROHG, EXHIBITED AT THE WORLD'S FAIR IN CHICAGO, NOW IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY, CHRISTIANIA

said he visited South America. He never set his foot on the North American continent. Nevertheless Columbus was to be glorified in the North American city by the Great Lakes.

*Viking* arrived at the World's Fair in Chicago on the afternoon of July 12, 1893, after passing through the Great Lakes amidst a round of receptions and festivities to its gallant commander, Captain Magnus Andersen (now shipping commissioner of Christiania) and his crew in New York and other eastern seaboard cities. No such outpouring of people and demonstration of enthusiasm have been witnessed in Chicago before or since. The arrival of the Spanish caravels, replicas of Columbus' three ships, which came five days prior to the arrival of *Viking*, evoked only a mild demonstration of interest by comparison. The reason was not far to seek. Built in Spain for exhibit purposes, the caravels were unseaworthy tubs which had to be towed across the Atlantic and were several times on the point of sinking on the way over. They were saved from such an ignominious fate by the crew of the steamship having them securely in tow. Nothing heroic, nothing romantic or thrilling about that. *Viking*, on the other hand, was a perfect reproduction of a viking ship of the tenth century, the famous Gokstad ship, found in a burial mound near Sandefjord. This replica, representing at once history and romance, courage and daring, shipbuilding skill and seamanship, the voyages and explorations of our Northern forefathers and an



THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF VIKING TO CHICAGO, AS SEEN BY THE ARTIST OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

epoch in European civilization, was not towed across the Atlantic. It crossed easily and neatly, guided by the skill of Norway's modern vikings, under its own sail.

After receptions in Milwaukee and Racine in its triumphal progress toward its destination, *Viking* was met off Waukegan by a fleet of nearly 200 craft of all descriptions which came up from Chicago to greet the strange visitor from a distant land across the sea. To the native inhabitants of the states bordering on the land-locked fresh water seas it was indeed a strange sight they beheld on that beautiful July day. To many this graceful ship with its golden-headed dragon

prow, square sail of alternate red and white stripes, black and yellow shields in a row along its sides, flag-bedecked from stem to dragon-tailed stern, was like a phantom, a spectre from a gray and hoary past come out of the mist of the centuries to demonstrate the truth of Leif Ericson's saga of the discovery of America—Wineland the Good. The fleet of official reception ships numbered forty headed by the *U. S. S. Michigan* and *Blake* and revenue cutter, *Andy Johnson*, which greeted *Viking* and its crew with a national salute, whereupon the fleet bearing the several reception committees representing the Exposition, the city of Chicago, the many Norwegian societies, official institutions, and consular corps of the city, besides many others, formed in a double column and proceeded toward Chicago to the roar of steam-whistles, ringing of bells, hurrahs and cannonading from the escorting ships and from shore. Every available vantage point along Chicago's shore line from Lincoln Park to Van Buren Street was black with people eager to catch a glimpse of this magnificent marine spectacle. The mayor of Chicago, Carter H. Harrison the elder, boarded *Viking* and was the first officially to greet Captain Andersen and his vikings. Carter Harrison, who prided himself on his Norse ancestry, took up a position at the helm and gave commands to the crew in words he thought were Norwegian. Fortunately Captain Anderson stood hard by and there were lookout men fore and aft. But Carter Harrison insisted that his ancestors were Norsemen, perhaps Eric the Red and Leif Ericson himself were his progenitors, and therefore steering a viking ship was as natural to him as steering his political party to victory in a municipal election. Carter Harrison steered for the Van Buren Street landing. Here he delivered the city's official welcome to the hardy Norsemen while a perfect whirlwind of cheers and applause swept through the assemblage. From there the escorting fleet of warships and private craft proceeded in double column formation to the World's Fair. As the ship swung in to its mooring, it was again given a national salute. The gangplank was run ashore, and Captain Andersen and his men crossed over to the stone quay, where they received the greetings and congratulations of the Exposition authorities headed by United States Exposition Commissioner Palmer and President Higginbotham in the presence of a vast crowd of sightseers. The official records of attendance show that the number of sightseers at the fair on this day far exceeded the number recorded on the day the Spanish caravels arrived. Until the great exposition closed the Norwegian viking ship was visited by hundreds of thousands and remained one of the most attractive exhibits.

The idea was conceived by Captain Andersen during a stay in New York in 1889. One evening in April of that year he attended a meeting of the aforementioned Norwegian American seamen's association of Brooklyn where he heard a lecture by Professor Hjalmar

Hjort Boyesen of Columbia University on the subject of Vinland and Leif Ericson's discovery of America. Returning to Norway in the autumn, Captain Andersen began publishing a merchant marine paper in which he wrote an article advocating the idea of building a viking ship on the lines of the Gokstad ship and sailing it to America. The plan met with immediate favor, and the necessary funds were raised by a national public subscription. Nearly everybody in Norway contributed. The ship was built in the Sandefjord shipyard not far from where the original had been dug out of its burial mound. It was launched with great festivities February 4, 1893.

At the close of the World's Fair *Viking* was presented by the Norwegian people to the people of America. The newly organized Field Museum, which was housed in the old Fine Arts building of the exposition, was entrusted with its care. The museum authorities accepted the trust and for several years kept the ship in good condition, and it continued, even on dry land, to attract many visitors every year. But with the passing years the museum authorities appeared to lose interest, and the ship was shamefully neglected.

By the year 1905 the once proud and beautiful ship, the gift of the people of Norway to the people of America, was a total wreck. It was at least a local if not a national disgrace. Many Norwegian societies of Chicago passed resolutions denouncing those responsible. In 1908 the writer presented a resolution on the subject in the Norwegian Club of Chicago, calling for the appointment of a committee of investigation with a view to bringing about the ship's restoration. The resolution was adopted unanimously, and a committee appointed.

On the basis of the club's resolution and the activity resulting from it the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Daily News*, and other newspapers in Chicago, Minneapolis, and the Northwest generally printed many news stories on the subject and much indignation was expressed. In this way the subject was kept alive for several years. The Norwegian language press of Chicago, the daily *Skandinaven* and the weekly *Scandia*, constantly gave space to letters and articles from indignant citizens who expressed their feelings on the subject of the disgraceful condition of the ship. All this led eventually to the matter being taken up by the city's well organized Norwegian women. They did the job well. Under the leadership of Mrs. Thye a committee was formed and the necessary funds raised for repairs. It took several years to do it, and contributions came in from all parts of the country, though the major part of the sum needed, amounting to nearly \$10,000, was contributed by the people of Chicago and immediate vicinity. All this detail work was ably handled by the secretary of the committee, Mr. Andrew Hummeland. The work of superintending the restoration of the ship was done by the well known engineer, Mr. Joachim G. Giaever, a yachtsman hailing originally from

the north of Norway, where the boats used by the fishermen still resemble the ancient viking ships. The governor of Illinois, who appoints the Lincoln Park commission, granted a site in Lincoln Park where the ship fully restored now stands as a permanent monument to Norwegian shipbuilding skill and seamanship and a perpetual reminder of Leif Ericson's discovery of North America. Dedication ceremonies were held at the ship's new location on November 6, 1920, in the presence of state, city, and park officials, the minister from Norway, Mr. H. H. Bryn, the Norwegian consul in Chicago, Mr. Olaf Bernts, members of the committee, representatives of Norwegian societies and a large gathering of people.

The Leif Ericson Day movement is gaining vigor rapidly. It should be an American day. More and more Americans are realizing that, like the viking ship in Jackson Park, the memory of Leif Ericson has been neglected. But, as in the case of the restored ship, the sense of justice of the American people will in due time also remedy this neglect. The movement is now entering upon a new phase of development. Increasing numbers of Americans are asking that justice be done to the memory of this continent's real discoverer by establishing recurring anniversaries. The idea is spreading, and we shall soon have an annual Leif Ericson Day for all Americans.

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## The First Scandinavian Settlers in Greenland

*Medieval Paris Fashions in the Far North*

*By* POUL NÖRLUND

THE traveller of our day, who has only crossed the Atlantic in a modern liner, will perhaps find it hard to realize what a gigantic achievement it was when Scandinavian traders of the Middle Ages ventured forth on that ocean in their little vessels. When Eric the Red, an outlaw banished from Iceland, found his way to Greenland and subsequently planted a colony there, and when his son, Leif Ericson, called Leif the Lucky, left his new Greenland home, Brattahlid, on a voyage to "Wineland," and reached the mainland of America, in about the year 1000, they had no chart house in which to sit comfortably ensconced and navigate at their ease; indeed, they had no charts and no nautical instruments of any description. The man at the helm had no mariner's compass to steer by, no aids to trust to except the signs of the sky and his own alert senses. And the small vessel was packed with inmates. Horses, cattle, and sheep, victims to seasickness from the unaccustomed rolling, shuffled about uneasily among sacks



VIEW OF A GREENLAND FJORD, THE HERJOLFSFJORD OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

of grain; and when the skipper at last sighted land, he was met by heavy gales round Cape Farewell, while great masses of ice blocked the coasts.

Thus there were difficulties and dangers enough to overcome. When Eric the Red left Iceland in 983, at the head of a band of colonists, to settle in "the green land," as he falsely called it, he was accompanied by twenty-five vessels, but only fourteen of them reached their destination. And yet the voyage from Iceland to Greenland was simple and easy compared with the direct route from Norway, which stout-hearted skippers from Bergen subsequently kept open for 500 years—about a century longer than the connection by sea between Europe and the mainland of America has now existed.

It goes without saying that there must have been some inducement for Norwegian traders to go regularly to Greenland. And really this country offered commodities which they could not obtain elsewhere. There were costly bear skins and foxes' skins, but more especially there were walrus tusks, an article of which nature had given these regions the monopoly. It was used as a substitute for ivory, which had to be fetched at great expense from India, and the Church was no small customer for this commodity, of which crucifixes, pastoral staffs, and other ecclesiastical articles were made. The Scandinavian settlers in Greenland, who had their own bishopric, paid their tribute



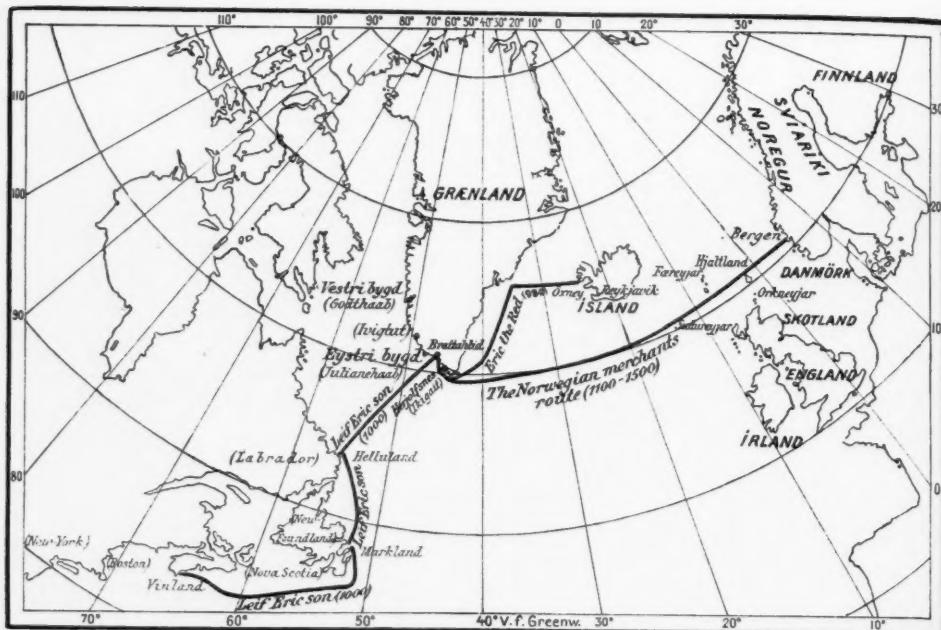
THE OLD HERJOLFNAES, NOW CALLED IKIGAIT, WHERE THE COSTUMES WERE FOUND, SHOWING THE RUINS OF THE CHURCH IN THE CENTRE OF THE PICTURE

to the Pope in walrus tusks; thus in 1327 the papal nuncio at Bergen received nearly 1,800 pounds of this walrus ivory in payment from the bishopric in Greenland.

When the visitor to the South Greenland districts of Julianehaab and Godthaab sails up the fjords in an Eskimo skin boat, or, if he be more modern, in a motor boat, he will find, dotted along the coasts in a long line, the ruins of one early Scandinavian farm after the other, now all grown over. Wherever the eye lights on a small green patch in the monotonous brown of the landscape, it may be safely assumed that in this place there was once a field where the sheep and cattle of the Northmen grazed. Various expeditions have now marked these sites on the map, Captain Daniel Brun especially having done meritorious work in this department.

In 1921 the Danish Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Greenland sent the first regular excavation expedition to the place, and it was the happy lot of the present writer to conduct this expedition in conjunction with Mr. Johan Petersen, former governor of one of the colonies. Apart from the scientific results of the expedition, the free life among the primitive Eskimo people with their simple, engaging ways was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

American newspapers have contained statements to the effect that we found vikings in full war paint encased in icebergs floating about in the sea. Our experiences were hardly as fantastic as that.



MAP SHOWING THE ROUTE OF THE NORWEGIAN MERCHANTS TO GREENLAND, ALSO THE VOYAGES OF ERIC THE RED AND HIS SON, THE DISCOVERER OF VINLAND. THE AUTHOR TAKES THE VIEW THAT LEIF ERICSON SAILED DIRECTLY FROM GREENLAND TO LABRADOR AND SKIRTED THE COASTS OF LABRADOR AND NEWFOUNDLAND TO NOVA SCOTIA

even though strange things were dug out of the frozen earth, objects which throw an unexpected light on the culture that perished so tragically in the remote North.

The name of the place is now Ikigait; in the time of the first settlers it was Herjolfsnæs, and Herjolf Baardsøn, one of the followers of Eric the Red, had built a farm there. In distinction from all the other farms which are snugly hidden away in sheltered nooks farther up the fjords, Herjolf's farm stands all by itself on a headland by the open sea, and in early days this place was one of the most frequented ports of call for Norwegian traders. The farmer, who was a man of note, early built himself a church near his farm, and its massive foundations, uncovered by us, show that it was more spacious than many of the village churches built simultaneously by our ancestors in Europe.

But for centuries the sea has made relentless inroads upon the low headland and has long ago made free with the churchyard. Eskimos and Danish travellers would therefore often find remains from the old graves at the water's edge, and it was in order to prevent the further depredations of the sea that the expedition was undertaken.

There were no forests in the colonies, and even though at times there would float up plenty of driftwood, at other times the settlers



WOMAN'S DRESS FROM ABOUT THE YEAR 1400



MAN'S DRESS FROM THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

were in great need of timber and could not, for instance, make coffins for their dead. Instead, then, they wrapped them in their old clothes and lowered them into the grave, placing a small carved cross on the breast of each. The grave was then closed, and soon after it froze solid during the long Greenland winter. From causes upon which I shall not here enter more closely, many of the corpses came to lie so deeply buried in the ground that it never thawed round them again until the day when we disturbed their century long sleep. For that reason their clothes have escaped decomposition, and some of them could be taken up in almost the same condition as that in which they were laid down 500 years ago.

To find costumes from that time in a state of preservation is in itself a remarkable thing. No European museum contains a single



HOOD SEEN FROM THE BACK

A SIDE VIEW OF THE SAME HOOD

secular costume dating from the Middle Ages. But it was even more remarkable to observe their shape and cut. These are not the humble garments we might expect to find in such an out-of-the-way place; to the best of their ability their wearers have tried to imitate the fashions then prevailing in the leading countries of Europe, and by no means without success. These costumes show style and distinction, even though they are made of the coarse homespun woven by the wives and daughters of the settlers.

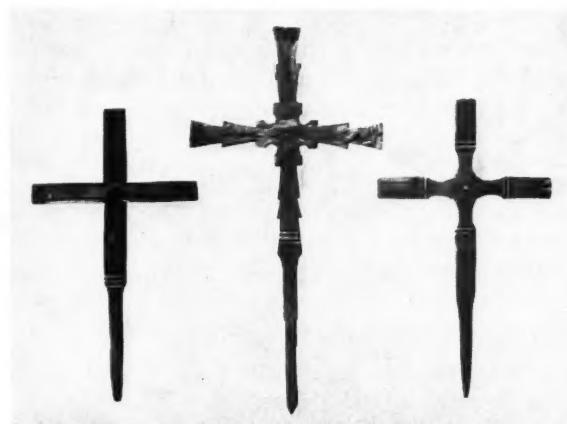
At that time both men and women wore long gowns, the men's being slightly shorter and more clear of the ground than the women's. They fit the body closely to the waist, but around the hips they become fuller rather abruptly, falling towards the feet in soft, voluminous folds. At the lower hem they reach a fullness of about three and a half or four meters. We easily recognize this typical "Gothic" style of dress from the icons of the cathedrals and the illuminations of the psalters. But the medieval atmosphere is even more vividly suggested by the hoods worn by the men. They fasten closely round the chin, covering the shoulders with a short mantle, while dangling down the back from the neck there is a remarkable "tail", sometimes as wide as three fingers and sometimes long and narrow like the lash of a whip. This fashion came from Florence and Paris, but one would certainly never have expected to find such fopperies in Greenland. Also, the small round caps worn by young Florentines of Botticelli's time were found in the frozen soil of Greenland, and one of the tall, pointed Burgundian caps from the time of

Louis XI and Charles the Bold. The early settlers in Greenland knew the pleasure of dressing beautifully and with distinction, and when the traders arrived and sought to impress them with the latest thing from Paris, they were not slow to imitate the prevailing fashion.

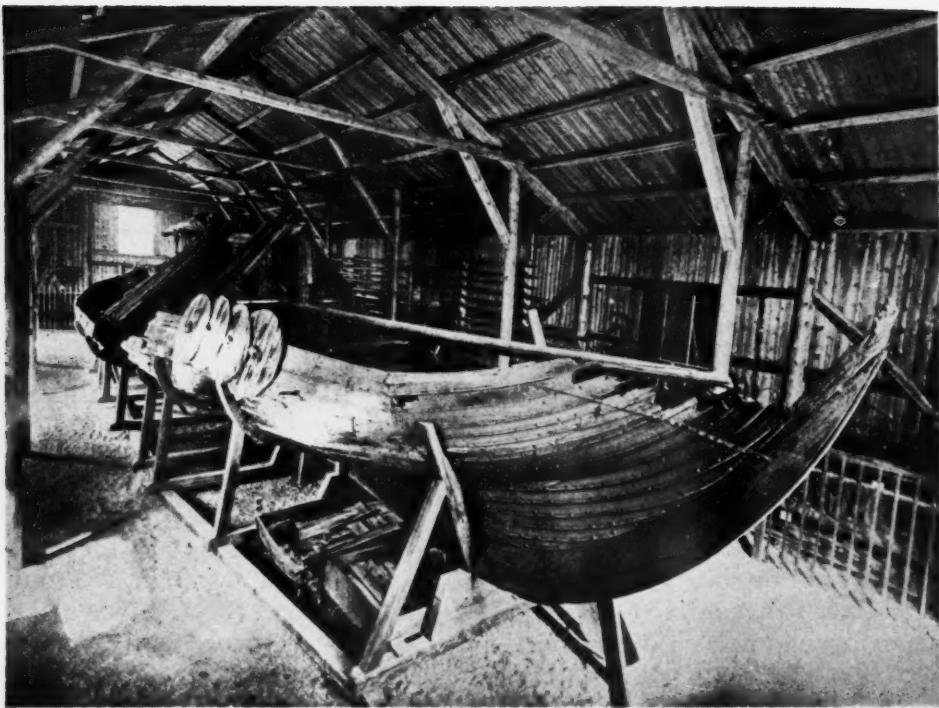
All this is very pleasing to think of. But now we come to the more tragic part, the darker aspect of the case.

When the costumes were put on the mannikins, we were amazed to see how small they were. Were these the clothes of the tall, magnificently built Scandinavians? The Danish anatomist, Professor F. C. C. Hansen, on studying the various skeletal remains brought home by us, had already noted the small stature of the settlers. The last Scandinavians in Greenland were a small, poorly developed race, physically degenerate through intermarriage and underfeeding, and with many cripples, hump-backs and lame among them.

In the course of the fifteenth century the connection with Europe was interrupted. One dare hardly think of the fate of the last inhabitants crawling about in that remote place, staring their eyes out for the ship that never came, the ship they watched for summer after summer, generation after generation. More than two centuries later the Norwegian missionary, Hans Egede, went out to Greenland, thinking to find his countrymen and hoping to recall them to the Christian faith, which he feared they had abandoned. But, alas, the last of the Scandinavians had then long ago departed this life, and small brown kayak men had taken possession of the land.



CARVED WOODEN CROSSES LAID ON THE BREASTS OF THE DEAD



THE GOKSTAD SHIP

## The Sailing Craft of the Vikings

**T**HANKS TO the discovery of several viking ships in Norway in our day, we are able to judge quite accurately of the means of navigation at the command of the old Norsemen. When Magnus Andersen conceived his plan of putting the old accounts of the Vinland voyages to the acid test of a modern repetition, he chose as his model the Gokstad ship, unearthed in 1880 from a king's burial mound near Sandefjord. This is undoubtedly the nearest we have to the type of vessel used by Leif and his followers. Nevertheless, experts think that it is probably smaller and less seaworthy than the ships in which the Vinland voyages were actually made. The intrepid captain who crossed the Atlantic in a replica of the Gokstad ship in 1893 may therefore be said to have more than proved his point.

According to Professor William Hovgaard, who discusses the ships of the vikings in a fascinating chapter of his book, *Voyages of the Norsemen to America*, the Gokstad ship was one of the "long-ships" built chiefly for war purposes, and by no means one of the largest. It had a length of 101 feet, a breadth of 16 feet 7 inches, and a displacement of 30 tons, and carried sixteen pairs of oars. The

largest longship of which we have any record was the famous Long Serpent of Olaf Trygvasson, which was 160 feet long and carried thirty-four pairs of oars. The longships, as the name indicates, were long and narrow in proportion; they were built for high speed and depended chiefly on their oars for propulsion.

The trading ships were generally larger, broader in proportion, and more seaworthy. As they made more use of their sail than did the war ships, the mast was generally higher and the sail larger. They carried oars, but these were regarded as auxiliary and were placed fore and aft of the cargo which occupied the middle of the ship. In order to load more goods, the hold was open amidships, the decks covering only a small space in the stern and bow. In the war ships planks were laid in such a way as to form a complete deck.

The hull of the Gokstad ship was of oak, clinker built on frames 39 inches apart. The lines were very fine, the broad, shallow form making it very stiff. At the same time flexibility was secured by using withies, probably made of birch root, to fasten the deck planks to the frames and the frames to the keel.

A peculiarity of the old Norse ships was the oar-shaped rudder on the starboard quarter. It was this feature that made all the prophets of disaster shake their heads most dubiously when Magnus Andersen was building his *Viking*. But the old-fashioned rudder proved its adequateness and was the only one used on the voyage across the Atlantic.

As to the seaworthiness of the ships built by the old Norsemen Professor Hovgaard writes:

"The seagoing capacity of these vessels was hardly inferior to that of later sailing-vessels of much larger size. Their great beam, their flat bottom, and their extremely light construction made them follow the wave slope without any accumulation of rolling. They would rise steadily to the waves and be little liable to ship great quantities of water under ordinary conditions of wind and sea. When they were not in use they were generally drawn ashore on rollers and placed in sheds.

"The vessels used in the Vinland voyages during the early prosperous times of the Greenland colony were probably somewhat larger in general than the Gokstad ship, and may in several cases have been of about fifty tons displacement. This would give a cargo-carrying capacity of some fifteen tons, or about thirty-three thousand pounds. On this weight there could be carried a crew of some forty to fifty men with provisions for about four weeks, besides live cattle with feed, tools, weapons, effects, etc., as was necessary for expeditions like those to Vinland. . . .

"The ships of the Norsemen, having both sail and oar power, were really in a far better position in certain respects than the much larger sailing-vessels of later days, the propulsion of which was dependent on the wind. The longships of the Norsemen were, in fact, much on the same footing as the modern fishing-cutter provided with some form of auxiliary motor. The Norse merchant ships suffered a disadvantage from their smaller number of oars; but these oars, nevertheless, enabled them to navigate with impunity near land under circumstances where modern sailing-ships would be exposed to great danger."

## The Triumph of Göteborg

*By a Staff Correspondent*

THE GREAT Exposition at Göteborg is drawing to a close. The city that staged it may well be proud of the success with which the project has been carried through. The splendid presentation of Swedish art and industry has been an honor to the country and has been an eye-opener to the Swedes themselves as well as to the numerous visitors from abroad. Among the latter have been numerous Americans. Whatever the nationality of the visitors, they have all, with one accord, praised the exposition, and some have gone so far as to say that in its beauty, its harmony and completeness within the limits set, it has never been excelled by any exposition, larger or smaller. The historical background has lent especial interest, and through graphic presentation it has been possible to visualize the past centuries.

As the visitor approaches from the great Göta square, past the

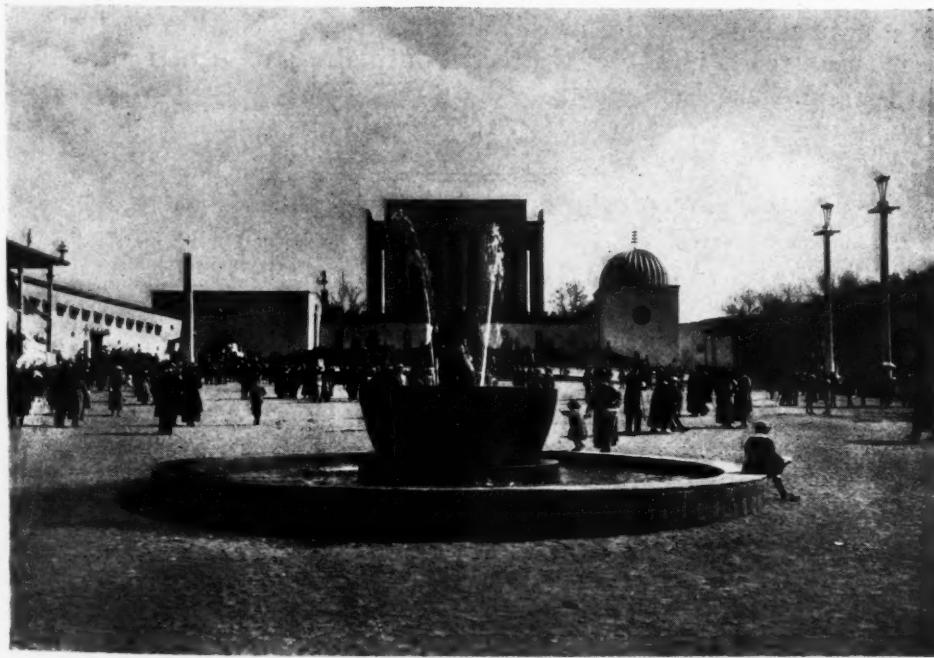
mighty walls of the new art museum, through a shady court, entering beneath the cupola, he is met by a panorama of unforgettable beauty: the wide enclosed space, flanked by two wings ending in slender minarets, rising gently to the height crowned by the majestic Memorial hall. And this first impression is heightened, as he goes on, and the scene changes. At every turn he sees picturesque vistas, idyllic nooks, and pleasant courts. The difficult problem of avoiding monotony has been solved successfully by the architects, Bjerke and Ericsson. They have placed the buildings so that the narrow façade of each, with the main entrance, is turned inward upon a court, while the length of



BRONZE COPY OF SERGEL'S BUST OF GUSTAF III PRESENTED TO GÖTEBORG BY AMERICAN FRIENDS



CROWDS ASSEMBLED FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE GUSTAF III BUST, JULY 4, 1923



MEMORIAL HALL WITH THE FOUNTAIN BY MILES IN THE FOREGROUND

the hall recedes into perspective. Therefore it is always a surprise to come within one of these halls and see what a vast floor space it encloses.

In the evening the grounds are flooded with magic light. All the resources of the newest light technique have been drawn upon, and the result is a modern fairyland more brilliant than anything Aladdin's eye ever rested upon.

As early as the beginning of July the record of visitors at the Exposition reached the two million mark, and its economic success was thereby assured. Beautiful weather drew especially large crowds at Midsummer, and a national agricultural exhibition held at the same time contributed to swell the attendance. As soon as it was over, the American contingent arrived on the Swedish-American liner *Kungsholm*, and the week was given over to various festivities and excursions in honor of the visitors. A song festival in which 6,500 Swedish singers took part was one of the chief attractions, and the Glee Club from Chicago acquitted itself with distinction in the great concert. The culmination of the festivities came on July Fourth. Gustaf Adolf, the founder of Göteborg, was commemorated in a gathering on the square that bears his name, where the main address was delivered by former Governor Eberhardt of Minnesota. A wreath was laid on the statue of John Ericsson, and finally the bust of Gustaf III was unveiled in Göta square. This bust has been presented by Americans in memory of the king who was the first to extend official recognition to the new United States. It will remain as a permanent reminder of this interesting early chapter in Swedish-American relations and of the recent outpouring of American visitors to the Göteborg Centennial.

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## An Impression of Russia

While officially the negotiations between the Soviet government and Sweden have been broken off, a Swedish firm, the SKF Ball-bearing Company, has been the first large industrial concern to be granted a concession by the Russian authorities. Following the example of the SKF, other Swedish firms are attempting to resume business in Russia by means of private agreements.

These new developments add interest to a comment on Russian conditions which we have received from the Secretary of Sverige-Amerika-Stiftelsen, Mr. E. E. Ekstrand, who was in charge of the famine relief in the Samara district. Through the bounty of the Swedish state and the generosity of individual givers, the organization of which Mr. Ekstrand was the head was able to feed 66,000

people daily, besides its numerous other charitable activities. No doubt this work, undertaken in a purely humanitarian spirit, has prepared the minds on both sides for the reknitting of old friendly bonds. Mr. Ekstrand speaks with the authority of one who has seen the Russian nation from within during the years of its sorest plight. He says:

"In order to comprehend what has happened in Russia in recent years, we must know what the lives of the great masses have been. For most of them their fate was determined by the change that took place in the status of the peasantry through the Emancipation Act of 1861. By that act the peasants were liberated from serfdom and received a certain portion of the land. For this land, however, they had to pay a certain redemption price fixed by the government and payable over a period of forty-five years. The size of the holdings varied, but the "large" peasant farms were from eight to twenty-five acres each. Actually the amount of land held by the peasants was reduced by the Emancipation Act and has been still further reduced proportionately by the subsequent increase in population. They lost the right of using the estate-owner's pasturage, of cutting wood in his forest, and some other subsidiary rights of importance in peasant farming.

"The taxes were very heavy. In the province of Novgorod, for instance, the peasants who had received small holdings and who had to pay the land redemption, were paying, before 1880, as high as 565 percent of the net income of their land. This meant that the peasants had to find other sources of revenue in order to satisfy the collector of the land tax. About 70 percent of the peasants were unable to live on the yield of their farms and would have been reduced to semi-starvation if they had not been able to find some supplementary means of subsistence. No wonder the standard of living was low. How low it was we may form some conception of when it is said that the annual budget of the average householder balanced at an equivalent of 100 Swedish kronor.

"Furthermore it must not be forgotten that the whole mentality of the Russian people is quite unlike that of the West Europeans. I think it is exceedingly difficult for us to understand them. The very structure of the country, the endless forests and vast steppes, must create a mentality of quite another kind than ours. Therefore Russian ideas and Russian conditions can not be looked upon from our point of view. The history and standing of the Russian people are so different from those of the people of Western Europe that it would be unfair to both to judge them in the same terms. The Russians spring from another soil than ours; they must grow and bear fruit in their own place.

"There is no doubt that the Russian nation is now struggling for better living conditions, more prosperity, and a happier future for as many as possible of its members. Some of the means employed to this end have been mistakes, or they have been only temporary measures and are so regarded by the Russian leaders. This is proved by their acts of later date, such as the re-establishment of free trade, of banking, of private property to some extent, and of inheritance rights within certain limits. Much has been done by the nation's own forces, but it stands to reason that where the need is so immense, outside aid is required in the form of work by capable foreigners and of necessary credit abroad, if prosperity is to be restored within a reasonable time.

"If it is a mistake—as surely most people agree that it is—to attempt to impose the same course of development which the Russian people have gone through in the last years upon other races with their different history and viewpoint and their higher standard of general intelligence, then certainly it is not a smaller mistake to let slip the opportunity to lend Russia a helping hand by work and credit and thus aid in saving this great and rich territory and bringing the whole world one step nearer toward peace and prosperity."

## Current Events

### U. S. A.

¶ The sudden death of President Harding at San Francisco, on August 2, shocked the nation and the world, especially as the President had been pronounced virtually out of danger from the attack of pneumonia from which he was suffering on his return trip from Alaska. ¶ With the accession of Vice-President Calvin Coolidge to the office of Chief Executive, it is believed that most of the policies of his predecessor will be carried out. It is thought likely that either the League of Nations or the World Court idea will find the new President a supporter of some way in which the United States can aid the European situation without surrendering the principles on which the nation is founded. ¶ The election of Magnus Johnson as Senator from Minnesota, over Governor Preus, brought the Farmer-Labor party into the limelight. Incidentally this makes pertinent the question whether the American-Scandinavian element in Congress is not to assert itself considerably during the Presidential contest next year. ¶ Another political issue is pushed to the front with the return from Europe of Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, who was tendered a testimonial dinner in New York by leaders of the various Republican divisions with the hope of unifying the interests of the party against the Democratic line-up. ¶ Senator Johnson, however, is as strongly opposed to the League of Nations as before he went to Europe. ¶ No move for the ushering in of world peace has within man's memory created greater interest than the \$100,000 prize offered by Edward W. Bok for "the best practicable plan by which the United States may co-operate with other nations to achieve and preserve the peace of the world." ¶ Entrants in the contest must be Americans, and the papers must be limited to 5,000 words. The manuscript must be in by November 15 and bear no signatures. The prize is to be in two parts, \$50,000 when the plan is accepted by the committee and \$50,000 when Congress takes favorable action on it. ¶ Henry Ford is said to contemplate interlocking his vast holdings throughout the world by the use of radio. An exceedingly large broadcasting station is under construction at the River Rogue plant which will be strong enough to reach across the Atlantic. ¶ An American home for opera is being established at Stony Point on the Hudson, with Max Rabinoff in charge. The project is to be called "The American Institute of Operatic Art" and the folklore of America is to be operatically developed as one of the main factors of the plan. ¶ A movement is under way in New York to unionize more than 20,000 bank clerks and other bank employees.

## Denmark

¶ In the middle of June the important case dealing with the causes of the collapse of *Landmandsbanken* was brought before *Östre Landsret*, and on June 23 the chief among the thirteen defendants, the former head of the bank, *Etatsraad Emil Glückstadt*, died after an operation for strangulated hernia. The case against him being consequently discontinued, the excitement and interest hitherto evinced by the general public flagged somewhat during the rest of the proceedings, even though the fight between the prosecutors and the defense roused intermittent interest as each fresh development was reported in the papers. There was in this case a very great divergence of opinion between the prosecutors and the defense; the former seemed to take the view that even very severe sentences would be too lenient, while the latter maintained that complete acquittal would be more appropriate. ¶ Sentence was at last passed on July 7, and it came nearest to the point of view of the defense, nine of the defendants being acquitted, while only three, viz. former bank manager *Riis-Hansen*, public trustee *Friis*, and director *H. P. Prior*, were fined 2000 kroner, 500 kroner, and 800 kroner respectively for negligence in their respective positions on the committee and board of *Landmandsbanken*. Judges *Hoff*, *Krabbe*, and *Axel Rasmussen*, the latter presiding, were not able to find that any of the defendants except the deceased *Glückstadt*, had been guilty of fraud. ¶ The passing of this sentence has already given rise to public discussion as to whether it is really in conformity with the law for the management of banking institutions and joint stock companies, and if so, whether the laws in question ought not to be made more stringent. ¶ In order to get an answer to the first part of this question, and because one of the three judges had given a divergent vote, there is a possibility that the public prosecutor will appeal to the High Court, and if the sentence passed be confirmed by the latter, amendments in the laws touching these questions will become the order of the day, the general opinion being that the sentence passed limits the responsibility of the head manager or a member of the management of a bank in a greater degree than the general public has hitherto supposed it did or than it ought to do. ¶ During the conduct of the case it was stated by the Attorney for the State that powerful forces had been set in motion before Christmas, 1922, to stop the whole of the proceedings, and the head of the East Asiatic Company, *Etatsraad H. N. Andersen*, was pointed out as the sole propounder of this wish which found no sympathy. Mr. *Kragh*, the minister for the interior, has, however, recently declared in no ambiguous words at a public meeting that the person who had most eagerly sought through him to get the case dropped was a prominent member of the Social-Democratic group in the *Rigsdag*.

## Sweden

¶ Rumors have been current for some time that Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, who has been a widower for several years, was thinking of marrying again, but no inkling as to who would be his bride has been given the public. The announcement, in July, of his engagement to Lady Louise Mountbatten therefore came as a surprise, although the news was received with general satisfaction. The people not only desire a happy home life for their popular crown prince, but they rejoice to think that Sweden in his reign will not be without a queen, and in view of the prince's pronounced English sympathies, they find it natural that he should once more seek his bride in Great Britain. She is the daughter of the late Prince Louis of Mountbatten and his wife, Princess Victoria, whose mother was the daughter of Queen Victoria. ¶ The Swedish government has replied to the question directed to it by the League of Nations regarding Sweden's position toward a general reciprocal guaranty treaty. The government, while pointing out that decision rests with the Riksdag, gives as its opinion that the plan for disarmament outlined in paragraph 8 of the treaty can only be possible of realization provided it is universally adopted.

¶ The Commission appointed by the government to investigate the extent of iron ore in Sweden and the problem of its economical utilization has handed in its report. It has been found that the resources of iron ore are much larger than has been supposed, so that it will not be necessary to take any special precautions to safeguard the supply. The amount in central Sweden alone is about 250,000,000 ton, which at the present rate of consumption would be sufficient for a century. Added to this it is estimated that there is not less than 1,500,000,000 in Norrland. ¶ The government has decided to begin this fall the electrification of the western trunk railroad line between Stockholm and Göteborg. This is done not only for the sake of improving the service and shortening the hours of travel, but also for the sake of keeping Swedish factories busy and giving employment to as many as possible. ¶ It was hoped that the housing shortage from which Sweden, like other countries, has suffered since the war would be relieved this autumn, as there are many buildings under construction, both apartment houses and small one- and two-family houses. Unfortunately, however, the bricklayers have chosen the occasion for a strike, with the result that building operations have been halted, and the country faces the prospect of a more acute shortage than ever on moving day, October 1. ¶ During the month of June the weather was unusually unpleasant with constant rain and the lowest temperature for this season of the year that Sweden has had in two hundred years. July, however, brought heat which the vegetation of the country sorely needed.

## Norway

¶ The Storting on July 7 adopted the report of the Constitution Committee with regard to the Greenland question, asking the Norwegian Government to invite Denmark to discuss the question through the agency of special representatives from each country, neither of them to be prejudiced by agreeing to a conference. It is significant that the resolution was passed unanimously without any debate, the Communists for once agreeing with the "bourgeois" parties. Norway stands united in the Greenland question as it has not done in any other political question since 1905. ¶ The Storting concluded its spring session on July 10 and will reassemble on October 15. The new estimates, voted by the Storting, show a total expense of 550,000,000 Norwegian kroner. The Government has been authorized to conclude a new loan of 250,000,000 kroner. It is hoped that practically the whole of this sum will be subscribed at home. ¶ The labor situation, which looked extremely serious in June, became considerably brighter in the course of July. The dispute among the raftsmen in the Drammen river was settled on July 9, whereupon the sympathetic strike of the 15,000 workers in the paper industry immediately ceased. The big lockout in the saw mills, the electro-chemical works, and in the textile, chocolate, tobacco, and woodware industries was consequently called off. The conflict in the printing industry has been settled by voluntary arbitration. There is now a good prospect of labor peace in Norway, at least till next spring, the new wage agreements in the chief industries expiring May 1, 1924. ¶ The distinctly anti-religious resolution, passed by the executive of the Third Internationale at Moscow, has had a very bad reception in Norway. Even the leading Communist papers criticize the resolution, which will no doubt hamper the Norwegian labor party seriously at the next elections. One of the most prominent members of the Communist group in the Storting, Mr. Tönder, is a clergyman in the Lutheran State Church. The atheist intolerance of Moscow has placed Mr. Tönder in a very awkward position. ¶ The taxable capital at Kristiania for the new financial year shows a decrease of 8.11 percent compared with last year, while the income has decreased by 17.59 percent. In the other towns the decrease of capital and income is still greater. ¶ The commercial depression is heavily felt by the philanthropic and religious societies. "Det norske Missions-selskap," the largest foreign mission society in Norway, reports a decrease of 100,000 kroner in gifts received during the first three months of this year, compared with the same months last year. ¶ The Minnesota choir concluded its Norwegian tour on July 5, having visited all the larger towns. The choir had the most enthusiastic reception. The president, Th. F. Hamann, and the conductors, Carl Hansen and F. N. Södahl, had an audience with the King.

# The American-Scandinavian Foundation

*For better intellectual relations between the American and Scandinavian peoples, by means of an exchange of students, publications, and a Bureau of Information—*

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**Government Advisory Committees:** *Danish*—A. P. Weis, Chief of the Department of the Ministry of Education, Chairman; *Norwegian*—K. J. Hougen, Chief of the Department of Church and Education, Chairman. The Swedish Government is represented in the Swedish American Foundation (below).

**Co-operating Bodies:** *Sweden*—Sverige-Amerika Stiftelsen, Malmorgatan 5, Stockholm, Svante Arrhenius, President; E. E. Ekstrand, Secretary; Eva Fröberg, Associate Secretary; *Denmark*—Danmarks Amerikanske Selskab, M. I. T. C. Clan, President; N. Feilberg, Secretary, Stjerneborg Allee 8; *Norway*—Norge-Amerika Fondet, Lille Strandgade 1, Christiania, K. J. Hougen, Chairman; Sigurd Folkestad, Secretary.

## ANTON H. GREGERSEN

For many years the Foundation has had on its roll of Associates, the name of Anton H. Gregersen of Alexandria, Minnesota. His name, by a bequest to the Foundation of two thousand dollars, has been placed with the name of Niels Poulsen and William Henry Schofield. These three have given by bequest to the permanent establishment of the Foundation; the founder, the president of the Board of Trustees for three and one-half years, and now an Associate who has quietly followed the work of the Foundation and found it worthy. When Niels Poulsen gave the original endowment to the Foundation he believed that others would follow his example in giving generously to the perpetuation of the idea of interchange in education, letters, art, and all culture between the countries of the North and the United States. There have been frequent and liberal gifts for current purposes, especially for the five-year interchange of forty students begun in 1919 and 1920. But only Mr. Poulsen, Professor Schofield, and Mr. Gregersen have left bequests to the Foundation.

Anton H. Gregersen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1865, receiving his early educa-

tion at the public schools. He afterwards attended the University of Copenhagen and studied English in London. He came to the United States in 1881 when sixteen years of age and settled in Minnesota. Like Niels Poulsen, he worked his way up by his own efforts and attained prosperity. Since 1899 he lived in Alexandria, where he owned a general store, and was well known throughout that part of the state.

On account of failing health Mr. Gregersen retired from active business in 1918 and took a short vacation. His anxiety to be of service

and his love of work induced him to go for a time into the First National Bank of Alexandria, where he had been a director for many years, but his physical condition was such that he could not endure the work, and he was obliged to give up entirely only a few months before he died. He died at Alexandria, which place had been his home for so many years, on November 30, 1921, at the age of 56 years.

In 1894 Mr. Gregersen married Miss Elizabeth Gottschamer of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mrs. Gregersen survives her husband and is still living in the home that Mr. Gregersen built at Alexandria five years before his death.

Mr. Gregersen had al-



ANTON H. GREGERSEN

ways been interested in community welfare. He was first president of the Commercial Club at Alexandria. He was president of the Board of Public Works in the city and an officer of the Alexandria Heating Company, which installed a commercial heating plant in the city of Alexandria. At the time of his death Mr. Gregersen was a member of both the Alexandria Library Board and the Alexandria City Park Board.

For several years Mr. Gregersen's business in Alexandria required him to go annually to the east and after retiring from business he travelled rather extensively, spending a winter in Florida, another winter in California, and some time in a visit to Alaska.

Mr. Gregersen accumulated considerable property. His own countrymen, different institutions in his own community, as well as the Foundation were generously remembered by him in his last will.

#### AT ST. OLAF

The visit of the Editor of the REVIEW to Northfield, Minnesota, in June was made the occasion for a gathering at which the aims and purposes of the American-Scandinavian Foundation were the object of lively discussion. President Boe of St. Olaf College and the Dean of Women Miss Gertrude Hilleboe were host and hostess at a supper served under the magnificent trees of the beautiful St. Olaf campus. The members of the faculty who had not already gone away for the vacation were present with a few other friends. The visitor from New York was invited to speak on the Foundation, and afterwards there was a general discussion on how best to promote co-operation between the two organizations which, though geographically far apart, have in many respects the same object. St. Olaf has now about one thousand students, and while English is of course the official language, Norwegian language and literature constitute a large part of the curriculum. Professor Rölvaag, head of the Norwegian department, has greatly stimulated interest in Norwegian studies and estimates that about one-half of those who attend the college take work in his department. For more and more of these students English is the natural medium through which they must study the history and literature of their Northern forefathers, and the publications of the Foundation, which are all in English, therefore have a large field of usefulness among them.

#### GOVERNOR SMITH FELICITATES GÖTEBORG

Through the Secretary of the Foundation, Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York sent the following Independence Day cable message to Göteborg: "For the people of the State of New York, of whom fifty-three thousand are of Swedish birth and many more thousands of Swedish descent, I send hearty felicitations to the city of Göteborg on the celebration of its three hundredth anniversary. We are reminded on our Independence Day that from Göteborg came the first Swedish colonists to America, that a Swede was President of our Continental Congress, and that Sweden was the first nation to recognize the United States by treaty."

#### SCANDINAVIAN DAYS AT CHAUTAUQUA

"The Scandinavians at Home" and "The Scandinavians in America" were the subjects of two addresses delivered by Henry Goddard Leach, former Secretary of the Foundation, at Chautauqua on July 23 and 24. From the home of the Chautauqua Institution Mr. Leach went to Jamestown, where he and Mrs. Leach were guests at a dinner of the Jamestown Chapter.

#### AMERICAN CONCERTS IN NORWAY

Miss Dikka Bothne, who went to Norway two years ago as a Fellow of the Foundation, has been the soloist of the choruses from Minneapolis and Duluth now touring in Norway. The first concert, in the open on St. Hanshaugen, was attended by twenty thousand people.

#### AMERICAN STUDENTS IN COPENHAGEN

Readers of *Berlingske Tidende* for May 31, came upon a photograph of ten American students who have been studying in Copenhagen this year, seven of them Fellows of the Foundation. In the front row, reserved exclusively for four ladies, were Mrs. Olive Dame Campbell and Miss Marguerite Butler, Fellow and Honorary Fellow for the study of the Folk High Schools, who had just returned to Denmark after a visit to the Folk High Schools of Norway, Sweden, and Finland; in the back row, with Mr. Sorensen, Secretary of the Danish Students' International Committee, were C. W. Aldridge, who is translating Professor Höffding's *Den Store Humor*; H. V. Olsen, a Nebraska student of co-operation; S. J. Herben and O. E. Albrecht, Fellows in Old Norse, and R. B.

Lindsey, who has been working with Professor Bohr and will publish in English *The Atom and the Bohr Theory of Its Structure*, written by two of Bohr's assistants.

#### THE ANGEL AND THE INDIANS

When Elsa Brändström had completed the triumphal tour of the Pacific Coast arranged for her by Associates of the Foundation, she returned to Minnesota for her final campaign to raise funds for the care of war orphans in central Europe. Here the "Angel of Siberia" met the Chippewas. Six hundred braves, squaws, and papooses were gathered at Cass Lake, and there was a friendly dance around the Swedish flag in front of Consul Wessen's tent. Even America's "native sons" have now met Elsa Brändström.

Miss Brändström returned to Sweden on July 26 with funds or subscriptions amounting to more than \$100,000 for her humanitarian work in Europe. Of this amount \$28,000 was raised in the far west where Associates of the Foundation were Miss Brändström's hosts; \$22,000 in Minnesota, \$20,000 in other mid-western states, and \$40,000 in the east. Miss Brändström will expend half of this fund for a farm in northern Austria or southern Germany where five hundred children will be taken for extended rest periods and for training. Each donor of \$24 to support a child for one year will receive a photograph of his protégé at the time of admittance to, and another at the time of dismissal from the farm.

#### THE BOK PEACE PRIZE

Edward Bok of Philadelphia has offered a prize of \$100,000 to the deviser of a practicable world peace plan acceptable to the United States, one-half to be awarded when the theoretical plan is accepted by the committee, and one-half when the government of the United States finds it acceptable. Among many international societies offering co-operation in the dissemination of the announcements of the peace award is The American-Scandinavian Foundation.



## Northern Lights

#### BISHOP OSTENFELD'S VISIT

In response to an invitation from the two Danish synods in the United States, Bishop Harald Ostenfeld of Copenhagen, bishop of the diocese of Sjælland and primate of the Lutheran Church in Denmark, has completed a comprehensive tour of America. In April he arrived in Los Angeles on one of the East Asiatic Company's boats, and since then he and his wife have travelled rapidly from one Danish colony to the next until their departure from New York on the home voyage July 18. They carried out a programme that would have wrecked the health and equanimity of ordinary mortals, but to their last crowded days with us this splendidly endowed pair seemingly preserved their vigor and good nature quite unimpaired.

#### THE GOOD SEED

From the press of the Augustana Book Concern at Rock Island, Illinois, have come two volumes of devotional literature which will find a warm welcome. They are *The Good Seed*, a collection of sermons for Sundays and the chief festivals of the church year on the first series of New Gospel texts for the church year, by Dr. Fredrik Hamersten, whose preaching in St. Jacob's Church in Stockholm carried a message to thousands and whose *Daily Meditations* has brought spiritual cheer to many homes in Lutheran America. *The Good Seed* appeared in Swedish in 1903 and this English edition is now published after the author's death, which occurred January 11, 1922. It is compiled from stenographic reports, and the translation has been made by A. W. Kjellstrand.

#### A HISTORY OF ICELAND

Among the forthcoming books from the press of the Macmillan Company is a *History of Iceland* by Dr. Knut Gjerset, professor of history at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and author of the great two-volume history of Norway in English.

#### THE LINNEAN SOCIETY

The Swedish Linnean Society, founded five years ago, this year for the first time held its annual meeting under its own roof, namely, in the frigidarium of the old Linné garden at Uppsala. This building, rich in

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associations, is now to be used as a Linné Museum, and forms part of the complex of the old botanical garden which, through the efforts of the society, is now being restored to its original form.

#### HANDBOOK OF RACIAL AND NATIONALITY BACKGROUND

From the Woman's Press there is being issued a series of handbooks on racial and nationality backgrounds. The sixth section is devoted to the peoples of the Scandinavian and Baltic States, and has been prepared by Minnie M. Newman, Department for Work with Foreign-Born Women, National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association. The outline plan covers background topics in the homeland and in America; self-expression in literature, music, the arts, dances, games and other amusements, and food; and programme helps, pictures, moving pictures, lantern slides, fiction, verse and periodicals. Much valuable data has been collected for this bibliography.

#### THE SWEDISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION

The 1923 Yearbook of the Swedish Tourist Association maintains the high standards set by its predecessors. An attractive cover design in color greets the reader's eye; upon opening the volume he finds a series of beautiful full-page illustrations, many of them from Hälsingland. He turns back to these with added interest when he discovers that they help to further visualize the first article in the book, in which one of Sweden's most distinguished citizens, the Archbishop Dr. Nathan Söderblom, tells of his childhood in this part of Sweden. Many other eminent Swedes have contributed to the book, and there are three hundred and fifty illustrations and five maps, making a most informing and interesting volume.

#### THE CENTENNIAL OF NORWEGIAN IMMIGRATION

At the triennial convention of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in St. Paul, last June, its president, Dr. H. G. Stub, appointed a committee, consisting of Dr. G. T. Rygh, Rev. R. Malmin, Rev. O. S. Reigstad, Rev. C. S. B. Hoel, and Dr. G. M. Bruce to co-operate with the *Bydelags* in planning a suitable celebration to commemorate the arrival of the first shipload of Norwegian immigrants on *Restaurationen*, July 4, 1825.

#### NORWAY NUMBER OF WORLD AGRICULTURE

Through the co-operation of Norwegian agricultural officials and Mr. Arne Kildal, press representative of the Norwegian Foreign office, *World Agriculture* has issued a Norway Number. Although mountains too high for trees occupy 70 percent of Norway's area, forests 23 percent, natural grass 4 percent, and less than 3 percent is arable land, yet agriculture remains the chief industry of the country. The farmers of Norway are largely self-owners, and each one strives to leave his farm in better condition for the next generation than it was when he himself took it over. The State Department of Agriculture through the agricultural school, together with the county agricultural societies, have aided them greatly towards reaching this goal.

#### THE GÖTEBORG "DAILY BULLETIN"

One of the most fascinating and unique papers ever published in Sweden is *The Daily Bulletin* of the "Sweden-America Week" published in English by the American-Swedish News Exchange at its Göteborg branch office, June 29 to July 4, this year. *The Daily Bulletin* has the distinction of containing the first regular Radio news ever sent from America to Sweden. Thus the Americans visiting Göteborg were able to read the morning United States news with no more delay than if they had stayed at home. There were seven numbers in all, each number containing accounts of the doings at "Sweden-America Week" of the Jubilee Exposition in Göteborg. Special greetings of distinguished Swedes to their guests were also published. Besides this *The Daily Bulletin* contains a variety of interesting articles by experts on many phases of Sweden's culture and art, tourist attractions, natural resources, industry, commerce, etc. The seven numbers are richly illustrated with beautiful half-tone prints.

Friends of Sweden who were not able to visit the Jubilee Exposition in Göteborg will find in the complete set of *The Daily Bulletin* a valuable description of what they missed seeing, just as the visitors found the publication an excellent souvenir. The set of seven numbers will be sent postage paid for \$1.25 or a bound set for \$1.50 by the American-Swedish News Exchange, 154 Nassau Street, New York City.

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Of the thirty-five Eddic poems, the full text of what is known as The Elder or Poetic Edda, it is likely that the greater part antedate the year 1000; of the poems belonging to the hero cycles, one or two appear to be as late as 1100, but most of them clearly belong to the hundred years following 950.

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